

which was primarily spread by strong wind, the Martin Fire burned in lighter winds in dry, heavy fuels. March through June rainfall amounts were the lowest ever recorded in this area, at about 8% of average. The weather for May and June was unseasonably hot and dry, with little of the seasonal marine layer intrusion. The Martin Fire burned 520 acres before being contained on June 16th; 90% of that acreage burned the first day. The fire forced the evacuation of approximately 1,200 residents and destroyed 3 dwellings and 8 outbuildings. At the height of fire operations, there were 67 fire engines, 29 hand crews, 11 water tenders, eight air tankers and five helicopters assigned, with a total of about 900 personnel.

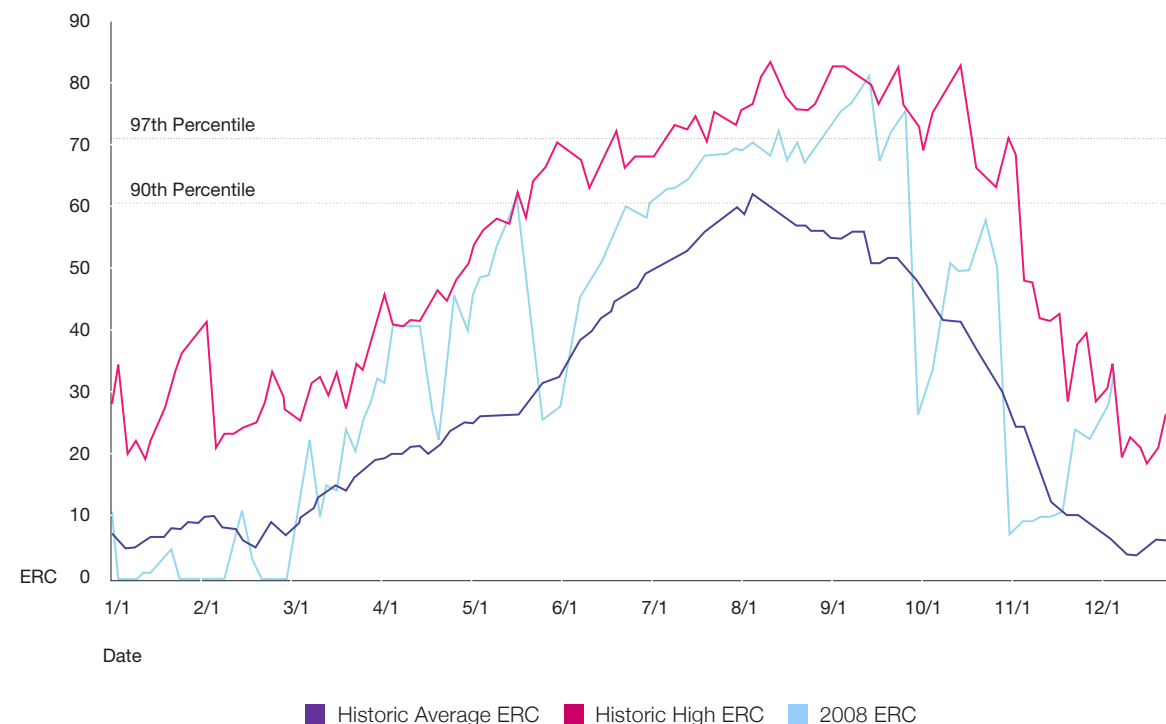
The Whiskey Fire, located approximately 5 miles NW of the town of Paskenta on the Mendocino National

Forest, started on June 12th at 12:30 p.m. The fire threatened Thomes Creek, which is the water supply for Paskenta, private timberland, and high value livestock. A Type 2 Incident management team assumed command and contained the fire on June 19th at 7,783 acres. There were 30 engines, 28 hand crews, 11 dozers and 807 total personnel at the height of the incident.

Governor Schwarzenegger proclaimed a State of Emergency in the following counties: Santa Clara County (5/24/08) due to the Summit Fire, Butte County (6/11/08) due to the Ophir and Humboldt Fires, and Santa Cruz County (6/11/08) due to the Martin Fire. These four fires combined burn 29,734 acres, destroy 446 structures and damage another 16 structures.

Energy Release Components (ERC) for North Zone

By late June, Energy Release Components (ERCs), a measure of how intensely wildland fuels will burn, were ranging from well above normal to record highs for the date.



The term “fire siege” can be defined as multiple fires that burn simultaneously over an extended period of time, over large geographic areas and severely challenge fire suppression resources.

